

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

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R 142050Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183384

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJ: INDIAN AMBASSADOR CALL ON ACTING SECRETARY

1. SUMMARY: DURING SEPTEMBER 12 CALL ON ACTING SECRETARY, INDIAN AMBASSADOR KAUL EXPRESSED GOI APPRECIATION FOR U.S. SUPPORT FOR SOUTH ASIA NORMALIZATION AND HOPE THAT BHUTTO VISIT WOULD NOT LEAD TO ANY SHIFT IN US ARMS POLICY. ON BILATERAL ISSUES, KAUL NOTED RECENT IMPROVEMENTS, URGED EARLY US AGREEMENT TO DEBT RESCHEDULING. ACTING SECRETARY
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SAID USG PLEASED WITH PROGRESS BEING MADE TOWARD SOUTH

ASIA STABILITY AS WELL AS BETTER INDO-US RELATIONS. END
SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR KAUL OPENED THE SESSION BY THANKING ACTING SECRETARY FOR HIS CONGRATULATIONS ON AUGUST 28 INDIA-PAKISTAN AGREEMENT AND FOR USG SUPPORT, BOTH DIRECT AND INDIRECT, FOR PROCESS OF SOUTH ASIA NORMALIZATION. ACTING SECRETARY STRESSED US VIEW THAT AUGUST 28 AGREEMENT ON POWS AND CIVILIAN DETAINEES GENUINE ACT OF STATESMANSHIP THAT SET EXAMPLE OTHER CRISIS-TORN AREAS COULD WELL FOLLOW.

3. WITH REGARD TO BHUTTO VISIT, KAUL SAID THAT INDIA HOPED US WOULD TAKE NO ACTION ON ARMS POLICY WHICH MIGHT IMPAIR SOUTH ASIA NORMALIZATION. IN THIS REGARD, KAUL WAS MUCH

ENCOURAGED BY SECRETARY-DESIGNAT NOVEMBER 11 STATEMENT IN SENATE HEARINGS. ACTING SECRETARY DECLARED THAT USG HAS BEEN SUPPORTING PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTH ASIA, WANTED GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES OF REGION AND WAS NOT AND DID NOT INTEND TO BE MAJOR ARMS SUPPLIER. KAUL EMPHASIZED THAT INDIA WISHED PAKISTAN WELL, WANTED TO SEE HER DEVELOP AS PEACEFUL AND FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR. INDIA NOW HOPED TO MOVE ON TO OTHER ASPECTS OF SIMLA AGREEMENT, TO RESUMING TRADE, COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER LINKS WITH PAKISTAN.

4. ON IRAN, KAUL SAID INDIA HAS BEEN TRYING TO REASSURE SHAH OF DELHI'S FRIENDLY INTENTIONS. INDIA HOPED THAT US ARMS SALES WOULD NOT BE INJECTED IN SOUTH ASIA WHERE THEY COULD PROVE DESTABILIZING ELEMENT. DR. KISSINGER'S REMARKS THAT US ARMS TO IRAN WERE MEANT ONLY FOR SELF-DEFENSE WERE REASSURING. ACTING SECRETARY ADDED THAT IT WAS CLEARLY NOT OUR POLICY TO SELL ARMS TO IRAN SO THAT THESE COULD BE PASSED ON TO PAKISTAN. WE BELIEVED SHAH HAD LEGITIMATE NEED FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT HE BUYING FROM US FOR DEFENSE OF IRAN.

5. ON INDO-US RELATIONS, KAUL SENSED INCREASING MUTUAL
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APPRECIATION OF EACH OTHER'S INTERESTS AND HOPED THIS PROCESS WOULD CONTINUE. ACTING SECRETARY SAID THIS WAS ALSO OUR VIEW; WE THOUGHT RUPEE AGREEMENT WOULD BE IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD. KAUL NOTED THAT SOME ASPECTS OF AGREEMENT, IN PARTICULAR US RETENTION OF INTEREST PAYMENTS ON NON-PL 480 RUPEES, COULD CREATE PROBLEMS IN LOK SABHA. ACTING SECRETARY SAID THAT WE ALSO HAVE OUR PROBLEMS WITH CONGRESS REGARDING

PROPOSED AGREEMENT, BUT THOUGHT BOTH SIDES HAD COME LONG WAY FROM STARTING POINTS.

6. KAUL BROUGHT UP QUESTION OF US PARTICIPATION IN DEBT RESCHEDULING EXERCISE, URGING THAT WE SHOULDN'T DELAY US DECISION BECAUSE OF LACK OF PARTICIPATION BY NON-CONSORTIUM COUNTRIES. INSTEAD "HAGGLING", KAUL THOUGHT "IT WOULD BE NICE" IF US TOOK LEAD AND SUPPORTED GENEROUS RESCHEDULING EXERCISE. ACTING SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT DEBT RESCHEDULING WAS COMPLEX PROBLEM; INDIA COULD NOT BE REGARDED AS UNIQUE CASE BUT COULD BE CONSIDERED ONLY IN BROADER FRAMEWORK.

7. KAUL'S COMMENTS ON US SCHOLARS IN INDIA COVERED IN SEPTEL. RUSH

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